

State of Hawaii  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
Division of Forestry and Wildlife  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

September 12, 2008

Chairperson and Members  
Board of Land and Natural Resources  
State of Hawaii  
Honolulu, Hawaii

Land Board Members:

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS AND  
AUTHORIZATION TO NEGOTIATE AND SIGN CONTRACTS TO  
IMPLEMENT THE FY09 WATERSHED PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM  
GRANTS**

SUMMARY: This Board Submittal approves the expenditure of funds and authorizes the Chairperson to negotiate and sign contracts to implement the FY09 Watershed Partnerships Program Grants, subject to the certification of availability of funds and approval as to form by the Attorney General's Office.

BACKGROUND: The Department of Land and Natural Resources published a Request for Proposal (RFP) on March 31, 2008 on the State Procurement Office website for the FY09/10 Watershed Partnerships Program Grant (WPPG), funded by the Natural Area Reserve Special Fund. The primary purpose of the WPPG is to support the development and implementation of watershed management plans developed by the Watershed Partnerships and negotiated with private landowners which help to coordinate and implement landscape-level watershed protection involving multiple public and private landowners, government agencies, and non-governmental organizations.

The Division of Forestry and Wildlife received 15 proposals, requesting over \$4.9 million dollars in funding. An evaluation committee comprised of staff from DLNR (DOFAW and CWRM), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the State Department of Health-Environmental Protection Agency reviewed each proposal and ranked them, utilizing the criteria outlined in the RFP: completeness, organization, support of watershed management plan goals and objectives, effectiveness in addressing threats, focus on actions, protection of high-quality native vegetation, feasibility/sustainability, leveraging of other funding and support of other governmental initiatives.

A total of 12 projects on five islands were selected for funding with awards totaling close to \$2.5 million (Attachment A: Summary-Awarded WPPG FY09, Attachment B: Notice of Award. The projects cover a wide range of activities to protect mauka forests that form the core of the most important watershed areas in the state: invasive species control, reforestation, ungulate control,

fence construction and maintenance, monitoring and community education. These projects benefit the state by improving the quantity and quality of water through the protection of our best remaining native forests.

CONTRACT PROVISIONS:

Contracts will be negotiated with the identified organizations to implement the projects according to their awarded proposals, as appropriate. Upon approval by the Board, the Division will take all necessary steps to implement the FY09 Watershed Partnership Program Grants including the execution of contracts. A portion of the funds will be implemented by DOFAW or CWRM or funds will be dispersed through agreements with the RCUH/Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit of the University of Hawai'i.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board authorizes:

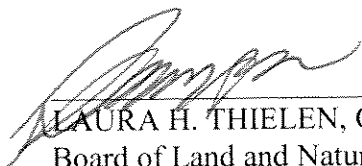
- 1) The expenditure of funds in the approximate amount of \$2,483,710.
- 2) The Chairperson to negotiate and sign contracts to implement the FY09 Watershed Partnerships Program Grants, approval as to form by the Attorney General's Office.

Respectfully submitted,



PAUL J. CONRY, Administrator  
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



LAURA H. THIELEN, Chairperson  
Board of Land and Natural Resources

Attachments